

The Times Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1914.

WAR? NOT YET.

Upon contingencies that cannot be foreseen or forecasted will depend the outcome of the Tampico incident. A crisis is certainly as grave as any that have arisen since the murder of Mexico; a crisis which it hardly is as yet.

The President, of course, has no alternative except to demand that the apology dictated by Admiral Mayo shall be made fully and without equivocation. Rightly or wrongly, the commander of the squadron at Tampico has put the dignity of the nation at stake; the President must uphold it from the mouth of the sea as it runs if need be. Mr. Wilson may think, as do some editors, that Admiral Mayo demanded more than is normally required by international usage, but he will not quibble about the content of the admiral's message to the local commander in demanding its literal fulfillment. To do otherwise would be to discredit the independent action and the proper initiative of American officers.

Precisely how far Mr. Wilson will go, in case Huerta prove recalcitrant, will depend more upon the manner and tone of the Mexican answer than upon anything else. Mr. Wilson has already ordered the fleet to Tampico—sufficient proof of his serious view of the matter—and he may see fit to order further action. Having chosen, and properly, to regard the seizure of American bluejackets as an insult, he is warranted by international law in demanding such apologies as he deems proper. Usually, where such a situation arises, the apology is forthcoming, unless the offending nation regards the terms as humiliating. In such a case, negotiations follow and the terms of the apology are "toned down" or conceded. Occasionally a rupture of diplomatic relations has occurred, and in a few instances, war has resulted.

Assuming, then, with confidence that the United States will not recede from the expressed terms of its demand for an apology, the responsibility for what follows will rest upon General Huerta. What he will do remains to be seen. His apparent intention may mean either the outcropping of that stubbornness for which he is notorious, or it may be part of a studied policy of insult. If it be the former, we may be assured that the apology will be made, and that the fleet will sail away from Tampico as abruptly as it will arrive. If the latter, the gravity of a situation already serious may be vastly increased. It may be, of course, that with Villa threatening a new advance and with the knowledge that his back is to the wall, Huerta may attempt to precipitate hostilities with the United States. In such an event, it may be necessary for those great fourteen-inch guns to be trained on Tampico, and intervention, so long postponed, that becomes necessary under another name. But as we see it, this body would merely hasten the inevitable and render the overthrow of Huerta doubly sure.

We must accordingly wait, confident that neither in respect to the honor nor the dignity of the nation will the President fail. Should difficulties arise—and frankly we do not anticipate them at this time—they will not illustrate the vagaries of fate. For twelve months and more we have waited, have seen murder, rape, rape and outrage in Mexico and have waited still, now we may possibly be thrust into war because of another Captain who has been the victim of a bloodthirsty American captain.

Military suffragette says she was very happy at the prospect of arriving in London. So were the rest of the people in London, but they were doomed to disappointment, while the suffragette lived to enjoy her happiness.

Will not some of the advocates of tolls exemption inform a waiting world of its economic good to American commerce? Just how many ways they remind us of the little boy who wanted to eat wood but because his father told him he should not.

Villa seems to have the same idea as to what constitutes an undesirable citizen as Colonel Roosevelt had. He is a rich man who supports the other fellow.

"Norfolk" says the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, "proposes of nothing, is not dependent on State favors." Nor upon race track gambling, either, as those people in Norfolk who oppose it know full well and as those who favor it will soon learn.

Now is the time when the milliner and the tailor begin to enjoy Easter, and hubby begins to too.

It is a good thing for Holston that he has left the navy, or else Secretary Daniels would discharge him for being groggy after his battle with Uncle Wood.

A GROWTH COMPARISON.

By an appeal to ancient history and the use of figures in the mass rather than in percentages, the Baltimore American easily proves that Baltimore once led Richmond in growth. But the application of these figures to the regional bank controversy is not made apparent, and the other than historical value of auto-hellum comparisons is left to the imagination. What Baltimore was and what Baltimore is in population are two entirely different things, and, of course, the growth of population is to be considered in the matter of the location of a bank the present, and not the past, growth must serve as the object of comparison. This, the American ignores for the very good reason that in this the comparison is altogether favorable to Richmond.

The American points out that whereas in 1800 the population of Baltimore was 20,514, and that of Richmond, 5,337, Baltimore's population had grown to 160,654 in 1880, and Richmond's to 27,570. It then proudly mentions that Baltimore's increase was 140,140, and Richmond's only 21,233. So far, so good.

It then gets on speaking acquaintance with the present, and shows that between 1880 and 1900 Baltimore's population increased to 208,577, and Richmond's counted only 50,650. So far so good. It then contents itself with saying that between 1900 and 1910 Baltimore showed an increase of 7,000 more than Richmond, but forgets to point out that, whereas Richmond's increase was more than 50 per cent, Baltimore's was but 3 per cent. It forgets to point out that Baltimore dropped a point in position among the fifty largest cities in the Union, while Richmond passed eight other cities.

In other words, once upon a time Baltimore grew a little—and a very little—faster than Richmond, but during the last ten years Richmond's growth has been so rapid that Baltimore appears to be standing still.

All this, of course, has nothing to do with the selection of a regional bank center. Banking figures are what the committee considered, and as the rate of growth in these is still more to Richmond's advantage and still less to Baltimore's, the American confined its remarks to population statistics, as unfavorable to her as these are. Inasmuch as something had to be said, however, the American wisely made a choice of the lesser of two evils.

And, by the way, how many of the newspapers who are so severely criticizing the organization committee published its defense a few days ago?

HISTORY THAT TELLS TRUTH.

Our veteran readers never glance at the calendar during the first three weeks of April without recalling the memorable drama that filled the stage during the frenzied days of April, 1861. Richmond was torn with excitement. The convention of the people, assembled to defend their rights, fought day after day to preserve a Union in which Virginia might with honor and dignity remain; rumors of war came daily; ere long the telegraph brought news that South Carolina had been forced to secede on Sumter, and that war was inevitable. Then, with unquenchable heart, Virginia was forced to throw in her lot with her assailed sisters of the South and to fight for rights dearer than those of the Union she had done so much to create.

The action which Virginia took during those April days, fifty-three years ago, was much misunderstood and much belied. The men who had fought through the convention and through the war were too much broken, when all was ended, to tell the story; it remained for their sons to write how the fathers had sought to save the Union.

And when we think of what has been written we never fail to remember the lamented and brilliant Beverly Mumford, who, with a pen gripped almost in the agony of death, retraced that story in his splendid little book on "Virginia's Attitude Toward Slavery and Secession." What a pity he had to die! What a blessing he lived to finish the book that set Virginia right in the eyes of posterity!

UNCLE JOE'S PROPHECY.

The Boston Advertiser quotes Uncle Joe Cannon as saying that he wouldn't trade even on the chances of the Republican party in 1916. "What's more," bubbles Uncle Joe, "I think we'll win a majority of the House next November. I don't believe we'll get the Senate."

After quoting the Illinois lame duck to this effect and putting a few other prophecies into his mouth, the Advertiser says that Uncle Joe is one of the wise men of his generation—"in certain ways."

The qualifying phrase, though an afterthought, is well used. Uncle Joe may be one of the wise men of his generation in certain ways, but in one way he is not. Anybody who will easily predict what is to happen two years hence in politics has no monopoly of wisdom.

"Richmond," it seems, says the Baltimore Sun, "was as much amazed as the rest of the country at being considered by the regional bank committee as superior to Baltimore." Not so much amazed as Baltimore, which did not know there was such a thing as a regional bank until it didn't get one.

Nobody blames baseball for interfering with business. Why does everybody always want to pick on the politicians?

"The next thing we know," says the Baltimore American, "Richmond will be big enough to go after a Federal baseball franchise." Richmond may be willing to take Baltimore's franchise off her hands after Baltimore finds out that she is not big enough to support it.

Nobody knows who put the subsidy plan in the Democratic platform, after the platform had declared against all subsidies, but everybody knows who is going to take it out.

NO REASON FOR DELAY.

There seems to be something of offended dignity in the statement of the Interstate Commerce Commission that after it has heard argument in the rate cases, beginning April 27, it proposes to consider the replies of the railroads to the recent circulars of the commission, and the results of "other investigations by the commission in connection therewith."

We cannot, of course, blame the commission for proceeding deliberately in so grave a matter as allowing a 5 per cent increase in thousands of rate classifications, nor can we blame the commission for declining to be bullied or threatened into precipitate action. But, at the same time, we think the commission has been needlessly critical in its investigations and luxuriatingly slow in its action.

As we see it, a very large part of the statistical work to be done by the commission in determining the wisdom of the requested increase in rates is largely perfunctory. Either the increase should be granted or unhesitatingly disallowed. If deserved, the reasons for it can be determined without combing a thousand reports and analyzing ten times that many tables. If the increase be not deserved, that fact can be established without lengthy investigation. Indeed, a rate increase which can only be justified by such microscopic analysis as that to which the commission is subjecting the reports called for on December 20 and February 26, is an increase that cannot be deserved.

The Times-Dispatch believes the railroads should be allowed the relief they seek, and we cannot justify delay which reflects more red tape than sound judgment.

THE BASEBALL WAR.

After threats innumerable and rumblings dire, the rivals in the great baseball war are at length face to face. Bluffing and bluster are at an end; before the bar of the court they will fight out the legality of the reserve clause, and, to a very large degree, the fate of the Federal League.

Simultaneously, in Baltimore and in Chicago, the owners of the Boston and of the Philadelphia National League teams have brought action against various officers and club owners of the Federal League. At Baltimore, owner Gaffney, of the Boston Braves, has entered suit against the Federal League for conspiracy in procuring the service of Jack Quinn, under contract with Boston. In his bill, owner Gaffney alleges that he had a talk with President Gilmore, of the Federal League, and that the latter promised not to employ Quinn. But it is alleged, no sooner was the promise given than Quinn was well remembered in Richmond as a member of our famous winning team—yielded to the blandishments of the Federals, and for \$2,500 in cash and a satisfactory contract "jumped" to the Federals. Gaffney claims damages in that the "conspiracy" cost him the services of Quinn.

The best of this action is doubtful, but that entered against the Federal League by the Philadelphia National League club is very clear-cut. It sues for \$25,000 damages and for an injunction to prevent the Federal League from interfering with the men it has under contract. The real test, of course, will be whether or not the playing contracts of the organized baseball clubs are binding at law. If they are, then Gilmore and his associates stand to lose many of their players and many thousands of dollars. If the contracts are not binding, the days of the so-called baseball trust are numbered. The Federals will either ruin some of the best clubs or will procure speedy recognition.

There can be no argument as to the necessity of organization in baseball. Without it, the team with the largest bank account will always be the winner, and interest in the game will languish. On the other hand, the form of contract now in use and, in particular, its reserve clause, subjects players to practical slavery. If the Federals gain for the players a fairer form of contract, they will certainly help the great national game; if the Federals are worsted in their legal battle, the players will lose not less than the out-law owners.

VISIT THE EXHIBIT TO-DAY.

As ability to boost Richmond is the ambition of every loyal citizen, all should see the Richmond Manufacturers' Exhibit in the Building of the Chamber of Commerce.

To talk intelligently of the progress of our native city and of the existing industrial conditions it is necessary that the citizen be possessed of information. Facts at fingers' end and the ability to present them in an interesting manner distinguish the booster who counts from the one who is merely a bore. The exhibit opened to the public yesterday furnishes the facts, and the inspiration derived from a visit to that amazing display will enable the poorest talker to hold the attention of his auditor.

Richmond has received considerable advertisement by reason of her selection as the location of one of the regional reserve banks to be established under the operation of the new currency law. That her place among the cities of the country is deserved is proven by the character of the permanent manufacturers' exhibit just opened. Certainly all Richmonders should know just how overwhelming this proof is, and the way to this knowledge is free to all. Visit the exhibit in the Chamber of Commerce Building to-day.

Dr. Mary Walker says hunting Easter eggs makes children bow-legged. Naturally, Dr. Mary objects, for when they grow up, they can't follow her example and wear pants.

Why should Villa care whether he is educated or not? Carranza is the talking and writing member of the firm, and seems to enjoy it well enough.

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

The Yankees Getting Busy.  
From the latest Norfolk letters received through the lines, we learn that very active preparations are being made for the opening of the campaign by the Army of the Potomac. Generals Meade, Humphries, Patrick and Ingalls had extensive conferences with General Grant last Friday.

The Streams on Rampage.  
Severe storms and heavy rainfall have delayed the movements of all of the armies in Northern Virginia. It is said that all of the bridges over all the streams from Orange Courthouse on have been washed away except one. It is probable that there will be but little activity on the front until the first of the coming month.

Paragut Given Up.  
According to Northern advices, Admiral Paragut has confessed that it is impossible for Mobile bay to be held by his fleet unless he shall be aided by a large land force attacking from the north while he assaults by water.

Presbyterian Rebel Expelled.  
The St. Louis Presbyterians decided at a late meeting that the Rev. Dr. McChesney, a clergyman well known in Virginia, could not be allowed to continue his pastoral labors at the Pine Street Presbyterian Church in this city because of his disloyalty to the United States.

Acting as Commissioner.  
Hon. J. M. Curry, of Alabama, is with the Army of Potomac acting as Confederate States commissioner to the many arrests of civilians near General Johnston's army, who by the late law are denied the right of habeas corpus.

From Norfolk.  
The enemy have again occupied Suffolk. They have there now three regiments, one a regular and two militia, all under command of Colonel Spears, the daring raider who tried, but utterly failed, to capture Washington by the railroads leading from Richmond to the South.

French Vessels Coming.  
Three French vessels coming up the James River, anchored yesterday at City Point, and it is reported will leave there tomorrow for this city. There are various reports as to the object of these foreign ships, but investigation, as far as it can be made, indicates that the object is to load here for exportation certain lots of cotton stored in this city and claimed on French account.

More Barrooms.  
In view of the first of May, which, like Judgment Day, is approaching, the traffic of the highway and the street, many men in the business are closing out their stocks and having no more to do with the law. The criminal and closed their places. Ere long, many eating houses will begin to show the penalty of their crime. The criminal will be a cracker and have a bottle of whiskey thrown in for good measure. If enough of this kind of thing is done, there will be many more such ways through which the thirsty can have his thirst quenched, and we can see that the law was framed with an eye single to many a citizen.

Chopped.  
The river having come down to its normal proportions, the fishermen are more than busy with their nets, and the markets with their catches. As a result, prices asked for fish are now low. That the fish are good, and splendid, need now for \$10 to \$12.50 per pair.

Gold in New York.  
The latest New York paper quotes gold at 100, which is higher than it was a month ago. The price of gold, the prediction that there would be a rise in the price of gold, and the fact that it took charge of all the Yankee armies.

Execution of the Gunmen.  
Three convicts were executed today at the State Prison. The execution was the first since the execution of the late John D. Lee, and it was a most interesting one.

Will Have Effect.  
These convictions ought to, and we trust will, have a salutary effect upon the criminal classes of the State, and that human life will be better. Danville Register.

Capital Punishment.  
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EXTRA! GAMBLERS CAUGHT IN COUNTY

Two Negroes, Whose Stake Was 28 Cents, Rushed to Jail by Henrico Sleuth.

It was at the witching hour when Bunny Thinsley and Bradley Johnson, colored tilters, met on Brook Turnpike Monday night, "Jes about dark of the moon," they said later. Bunny had a "onesie" in his pocket, and Bradley was wending his weary way homeward by a lantern's flickering light.

"Might as well try a few throws," said Bunny tentatively. "Ain't nobody around, and I reckon as Mr. Tiller and Mr. Hendall is asleep by dis time." He looked around cautiously. A leaf stirred on the slight night breeze, and the looting lantern cast strange shadows among the roadside bushes. There was neither sound nor other presence, and Bradley felt assured.

"You've got a few," he said, and set the lantern down in the middle of the pike. "See who shoots first," he whispered, and won the throw. The "onesie" showed a five and deuce, and he passed the throw. "Jes," he said, "my rabbit's foot at home," he muttered.

Bunny shot four times in succession, and Bradley handed out 28 cents. He had a beer check, a slick nickel, a dime and three coppers left. Bradley rattled the dice and tossed them in the dirt.

Just as he was picking up the money, a shrill voice spoke over his shoulder, and the words had a familiar ring.

"You're under arrest," and as the constabulary cocked his eye behind him he encountered Officer Tiller's steady gaze.

"I thought so," the negro muttered. "When the cards is stacked agin you, you ain't no use tryin' to play." He picked up his lantern, and the constable followed him. So they marched to the Henrico County Jail, and the east was afire with dawn when Jailer Garnett let them in.

It was the lantern that had attracted Tiller's notice.

Sons of Veterans Rally.  
The annual meeting and celebration of the Lee Camp, No. 1, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will be held in Lee Camp Hall, 518 East Broad Street, on Monday night at 8:15 o'clock. New officers are to be elected, and among the business items are proposed amendments to the by-laws of the camp to be voted on. A smoker and buffet supper will follow the business session. Several distinguished Confederate veterans have been invited to be present.

Christian Sues H. F. & P.  
Suit for \$500 was brought in the Law and Equity Court yesterday by W. J. Christian against the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company. The action charges that the road with negligence on October 29, 1913, in which a train operated by the company ran into and demolished the company automobile while he was engaged in driving it across the railroad tracks near Glen Allen.

Harris Gets Two Years.  
Preston Harris, indicted for malicious wounding, was found guilty in the Hunting Court yesterday and was sentenced by Judge Richardson to serve two years in the penitentiary. Harris was arrested on February 28 for wounding William St. Clair with a pistol.

James Freeman, against whom the grand jury returned a true bill charging robbery, was found guilty of assault and battery and sentenced to pay fine of \$10 and serve six months on the roads.

News of Petersburg

Richmond, Va., April 15, 1914.

My Dear Friends:

Allow me, on this, our twenty-fifth anniversary, through this medium, to express my profound gratitude for the patronage bestowed upon our firm within the last twenty-five years.

Whilst I have striven to the best of my ability to merit your liberal favors, I am nevertheless mindful that without your support it would not have been possible to have served you as well as I have.

To my associates through the whole period of our existence, I am grateful for the assistance and consideration which it has been my good fortune to receive at their hands.

It has been my aim to associate with men of character, upon which foundation has been built, ability to serve the public acceptably. I have confidence in my corps of associates. Many of them have been connected with the firm a long time—some have grown up with it from infancy and are recognized factors in our operations. Faithful service by them is rewarded and every facility afforded them to acquire knowledge of furniture as an art and to draw the attention of customers to such goods as are best suited to their needs.

Upon such principles—always avoiding showy, pretentious goods—we try to maintain our reputation, which reputation we regard as our largest asset.

Again I thank you, and ask for the firm of Sydnor & Hundley your continued good will, promising on the part of us all faithful and conscientious service.

Sincerely Yours,  
C. H. Sydnor

The Times-Dispatch Bureau,  
5 Hollingsbrook Street,  
Petersburg, Va., April 14.  
(Phone 1455).

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held last night, but the business was mainly routine, confined to concurrence in matters sent up from the Council, mostly departmental matters. The Council will hold an adjourned meeting on Thursday evening for the consideration of important business laid over from the regular meeting, and the Board adjourned until a week later.

General News Notes.  
Services of the several Episcopal churches in this city were elected yesterday. The old bodies were generally re-elected.

Adjutant and Mrs. George M. Wood, the heads of the Salvation Army in Petersburg, left this evening for a three weeks' rest visiting friends.

R. E. Mayes, district manager of the Woodmen of the World, has been quite sick for three weeks. His condition is improved, but he is still confined to his bed.

Will pay for the benefit of the Home for Incurables in Richmond will be observed in Petersburg to-morrow.

The Rev. George C. Zeigler, pastor of the Washington Street Christian Church, has gone to Roanoke to assist in conducting a series of revival meetings. He will be absent about ten days.

Grace J. Pierce has been commissioned as postmistress at City Point, and Bertha E. Hale, as postmistress at Sussex Courthouse.

A delightful Easter social was given last night at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Kinney, on South Sycamore Street. Forty or more couples were guests, and participated in the enjoyments of the evening.

The Lovett Bros. in rebuilding their large department store on Commerce Street, have in contemplation, in connection with their newly purchased property fronting on Union Street, the erection of a new theater.

The interdenominational Sunday school mass-meeting will be held Thursday night in the Second Baptist Church, at which Marshall A. Hudson, of Syracuse, N. Y., will be the principal speaker.

UNITED STATES COURT CONVENES AT DANVILLE.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Danville, Va., April 14.—The United States Court convened here to-day, Judge Henry G. McDowell presiding. Richard Evelyn Byrd, of Winchester, was sworn in as district attorney and J. H. Cliftwood, of Franklin County, as assistant.

The docket has no interesting cases, except that of Dewey Brown, a fifteen-year-old boy, who pleaded guilty to this afternoon to robbing a mail box at Mayberry, Carroll County, and was given three years in the training school at Washington, D. C., for incorrigible youths.

Hot Air to Be Measured.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Washington, April 14.—The hot air in the House of Representatives will be measured by the United States Weather Bureau, in a machine, to be installed in the Capitol, has secured permission to install an air-measuring machine in the House of Representatives. This machine will test its oxygen contents.

BIG SPELLING BEE  
All Colored Schools to Compete in Giant Orthographic Contest.  
A spelling bee, in which all the colored public schools will be represented, will be given in the City Auditorium on Friday night at 8 o'clock under the auspices of the Young Men's League of the Third Street African Methodist Episcopal Church. Pupils of the Armistead High, Buchanan, Maury, Navy Hill, Baker, George Mason and Moore schools will compete. The prizes will be, first, set of Charles Dickens' works; second, set of Poe's works; third, "Life and Works of Paul Laurence Dunbar." Music will be rendered by the Saxophone Quartette, Harmony, Ideal and University Quartettes.

Missionary Union Meeting.  
The Woman's Foreign Missionary Union of East Hanover Presbytery will meet at Westminster Church tonight at 8 o'clock. The sermon will be preached by Dr. McMillan.

OUR officers are always glad to furnish advice and information regarding any investment or financial matters.

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits, \$1,700,000.00.

National State and City Bank